

Application No.: 10/020,401

Docket No.: 21547-00287 US

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-10 (canceled).

11. (Currently amended) An elongate support element suitable for use with implants and as a replacement structure for the human body, the support element comprising:

plural seats penetrating a surface on the elongate support element and enabling the support element to be applied to the implants, center axes of each of the plural seats ~~connecting~~ aligning with center axes of the implants to meet a fixed accuracy of fit requirement,

wherein the support element comprises a homogeneous material,

wherein a wall of each of the plural seats comprises the homogeneous support element material, and

wherein the plural seats are arranged to prevent communication by a through hole between the surface on the elongate support element and an opposing surface on the elongate support element through the plural seats, and

wherein the center axes of each of the plural seats are non-parallel with each other.

12. (Previously presented) An elongate supporting element according to Claim 11, wherein each seat wall has a surface ground in the homogeneous material.

13. (Previously presented) An elongate support element according to Claim 11, wherein a material strength around each seat has essentially a same material strength as a remaining portion of the support element material.

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14. (Previously presented) An elongate support element according to Claim 11,

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wherein each seat wall comprises the support element material,

said each seat wall being free of intermediate layers of material compositions and material alterations.

15. (Previously presented) An elongate support element according to Claim 11, wherein each seat wall comprises material having a same chemical composition as a remaining portion of the support element material.

16. (Previously presented) A method for producing and installing a tooth replacement structure, the method comprising:

forming two or more recesses directly in a blank material using milling equipment to form a support part from the blank material,

wherein said forming two or more recesses avoids forming a through hole in the blank material;

applying the support part to implants using said two or more recesses as seats in the support part, wherein the seats each meet set accuracy of fit requirements for application to the implants; and

applying tooth replacement material to the support part,

wherein center axes of each of the two or more recesses are non-parallel with each other.

17. (Previously presented) Method according to Claim 16, wherein said seat is formed in the blank material using milling equipment which is fed milling coordinates information in the form of milling coordinates data, provided by computer equipment and derived from identification data and supplementary data fed to the computer equipment.

18. (Previously presented) Method according to Claim 16, wherein said seat is formed in said blank material using milling equipment which is fed integrated milling data relating to the support element and the seat and seat positions in the support element.

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19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said forming two or more recesses avoids a need for the presence of any seat material which is not integral with the blank material.